

# Annual Report 2024

#### Contents

Highlights from 2024!
Welcome from our Vicar
Alpha
Children and Families
Churchwardens
Creation Care and Renewal
Deanery Synod
Home Groups
House of Prayer
Men @ St Giles
Mission on our Doorstep
Music and Worship
Pastoral Prayer
PCC
Property Committee
Property Committee
Safeguarding
Safeguarding 9   Schools 10   Seniors Ministry 10   St Columba, Collingtree 12   Student and Young Adults Ministry 13   Treasurer 13   Uniformed Organisations – Scouts 14   Uniformed Organisations – 19 <sup>th</sup> Northampton St Giles Guiding 14
Safeguarding 10   Schools 10   Seniors Ministry 10   St Columba, Collingtree 11   Student and Young Adults Ministry 11   Treasurer 11   Uniformed Organisations – Scouts 14   Uniformed Organisations – 19 <sup>th</sup> Northampton St Giles Guiding 14   Welcome and Hospitality 14
Safeguarding 9   Schools 10   Seniors Ministry 10   St Columba, Collingtree 12   Student and Young Adults Ministry 13   Treasurer 12   Uniformed Organisations – Scouts 14   Uniformed Organisations – 19 <sup>th</sup> Northampton St Giles Guiding 14   Welcome and Hospitality 14   Wellbeing Café 14

# Highlights from 2024!

- There is a faithful albeit small group who meet through daily and weekly zoom and monthly in-person prayer sessions as well as making pastoral prayer available where possible as part of our Sunday services.
- We have met with over 600 children through our outreach work in schools!
- Our Sunday morning work with children and young people continues to grow.
- We have had an average of 60 people attending Take-A-Break through the summer.
- We have connected with about 70 students and young adults through 2024 at Sunday services and Thursday nights.
- Some of our young adults have helped lead Alpha at Broadmead Community Church and our monthly YA service is growing in leaders.
- Daniel Blight joined us as an intern and will continue during 2025.
- We have a grant from a legacy fund through the diocese for the allotment. With this we have been able to replace lots of the raised beds sides, and we are looking to build a decking area for seating to do bible studies. All done by the Students and Young Adults that are connected through St Giles.
- The University Multi-Faith centre team with whom Ruth has a close working relationship has grown by 6 more chaplains, including one more Catholic, Methodist and Anglican chaplain.
- We have provided 400 cooked dinners through our weekly 'Open Dining Room' from November-March.
- We have supported a wide range of local mission groups, including the University Foodbank via FISH, Eve and Baby Basics.
- Our musicians and AV Teams have provided music-led worship for all but a handful of the 106 church services throughout the year!
- Our children & young people are getting involved in the 'production' of our services, serving on our Sound and Visual desks.
- Our churchyard now has CCTV coverage to help reduce anti-social behaviour.
- We have eleven home groups meeting regularly with demand for more places to be available.
- Our property team have ensured that our building stays safe and light, power and heat are available when we need them!

## Welcome from our Vicar

2024 has been a really encouraging year in the life of St Giles. My desire for us as a church was to become more stable and sustainable whilst remaining missional. We began the year facing challenges of how to do this, including a significant financial challenge that we shared with the church community, but God has led us by his Spirit and provided.

What we then saw throughout the year was people often turning up on a Sunday and at midweek groups wanting to



explore Christianity and some going on a journey of faith. We saw 2 children having a service of thanksgiving and dedication, 8 people getting baptised, one renewing her baptism vows and two being received into the Church of England.

We saw growth in the amount of children, families, students and young adults we had contact with. We saw growth in home groups both in numbers attending and in the amount of home groups, and we've seen numbers attending on a Sunday rising.

Our Giving Day in September was a particular encouragement, when we set a target at raising £35,000 to keep us sustainable for 2024, and we received over £90,000. This meant that we were able to pay our full parish share for 2024 and we were able to make our Student and Young Adult Mission Lead role a permanent full time position.

Although we are not out of the woods yet, and we have confirmed that we can only pay 2/3rds of Parish Share this year, we are trusting that God will provide, and we are looking to hold another Giving Day this Autumn.

Thank you so much to everyone for all that you contribute to the life, ministry and mission of St Giles. All that we do would not be possible without you. Every part of the body is so valuable and I am thankful for you all. Above all, I am thankful to God for all that he has done amongst us and we look forward to seeing what he will do in and through us in 2025.

Josh Thorne

#### Alpha

In 2024, we did not run the Alpha Course, although some young adults supported Broadmead Community Church when they ran the course. Evangelism has happened in different ways across ages throughout the year and so whilst this has continued, I have not sought to gather a team to run Alpha. We are seeing youth and young adults coming to faith, parents of children who link in with our children and families' ministry are on journeys exploring faith, and all of this is often encouraged by people building relationships with others and sharing their faith, and also through people being welcomed at Sunday services, staying, finding community and exploring Christianity. It has been exciting this year to receive people into the Church of England who have come back to faith and baptise new believers. Alpha remains a brilliant way to introduce people to Christianity and we will no doubt run the course in the future at the appropriate time.

Josh Thorne

# Children and Families

Our children's and families work has seen an increase in 2024.

Toddle In is continuing to meet two days a week, and is continuing to grow with new families attending nearly every week.

Open Dining Room re-started in October and has seen a number of families coming each week for a hot meal and crafts and games for the children.

We ran Take-A-Break over the summer holidays, which saw an average of approx. 60 people attending the sessions in church each Wednesday afternoon.

Our Sunday morning groups continue to meet, and we are now able to run the pre-school group twice a month. We would love to be able to begin running this every week in 2025.

Beth Whaites

## Churchwardens

As church wardens we are elected by the church members and responsible to the Bishop. It is our duty to provide support to the vicar in every way possible and ensure that nothing stops the delivery of our services of worship.

Over the year we have continued to support Josh and the PCC as they have sought to do God's will. We would like to thank everyone who works or serves at St Giles for all of the ways they help in this mission.

I (Stephen) would like to add a personal thank you to David for his patience and wisdom these past two years.

Stephen Hewitson and David Lidbetter

# Creation Care and Renewal

Work continues on the churchyard as the community group, which I am part of, has secured some extra funding for Northampton in Bloom. Working with partners NTC, WNC, Northampton BID and Northampton College the group has managed to tap into the Abington street works repurposing and restoring hanging basket poles and benches and had the doglegged wall area resurfaced with new planters built which will be planted this year. The Group collected an 'Outstanding' award in the RHS 'It's your neighbourhood awards' in 2024 as a result of this. One point I will raise to the PCC is as creation



care is a mark of Anglican mission, why isn't it included in home mission? We don't budget for

any investment in the churchyard such as bird/bat boxes/new trees. Everything has come from external funding and bulbs were planted in the autumn by the local community. In the autumn I also attended Northampton Ecumenical Eco Group's Care for Creation event at St Peter's Weston Favell. It was an excellent event which would have been useful for the church as it had some brilliant resources for all ages. It was a shame that it wasn't supported more by our church. I am re-entering the churchyard into the wildlife trust conservation scheme this year- it only costs £5 and the awards are valid for 3 years. Various meetings with WNC and their contractors have been frustrating this past year but we celebrate the small wins. Hoping the church as a whole becomes a bit more hands on with creation care in 2025.

Rocky Coles

## Deanery Synod

The Deanery Synod convened for three formal meetings after the St Giles 2024 APCM. St Giles non-clergy representation at Deanery Synod was doubled this year. Peter Day and Stephen Hewitson were joined as Synod representatives by Dave Smith and Neil Richards.

In June, members of the Deanery Synod met at St Mary's Church Far Cotton. Rural Dean Oliver Coss led the meeting. Matters shared included an increase in homelessness since the pandemic. The main area of sharing was in hearing different views held by churches on the intersection of homosexuality and Christianity in light of 'Prayers of Love and Faith' from the Bishops. Two letters were read out to the Deanery Synod from two parishes with opposing views in relation to PLF. There was time for reflection and hearing people's views around the Deanery.

In September, we met at All Saints' School, Kingsthorpe. Oliver Coss led the meeting. The Treasurer shared about low contributions to Parish Share. Bishop Debbie gave an address and from the floor received commitments to pray for her. She also took questions about maintaining her silence on PLF matters. She mentioned taking the time to get the message right. The evening closed with an encouragement from the floor with Ali Wagner (former curate at St Giles) sharing that Churches, as a body, are hurting, but that does not mean we stop moving.

In November, Deanery Synod was held at St Giles Northampton. Three members of Mothers Union spoke; Helen Lynett – Diocesan President, Revd Deborah Marsh and their chaplain Bishop Andrew Proud. There were reports from the Deanery Treasurer and the Diocesan Advisory Committee and Faculties. The evening was closed by prayers from the Assistant Rural Dean.

Neil Richards

#### Home Groups

Home groups are small communities that currently gather every week to provide a space for friendship, encouragement and support, as well as prayer and bible study, and often sharing food together. They are a great way to find community and grow in discipleship at St Giles.

It has been wonderful to see home groups growing in numbers and two new home groups forming this year. We now have approximately 40% of adults who are linked to our church being part of a home group, which is really encouraging.

A special thank you to home group leaders who contact, gather and support those in their groups, and to everyone who invests in their home group. My hope and prayer is that groups continue to thrive as we grow together in our discipleship.

If you would like to join a home group, please speak to Josh Thorne or Helen Goff in the Church Office to find out more information.

Josh Thorne

# House of Prayer

Corporate zoom prayers continue each weekday morning and Thursday evening. We also pray corporately in person on the last Saturday of each month. Grateful thanks to the teams for their persistence in praying, leading and supporting.

We believe that persistence in intercession day by day and week by week are what The Lord requires of us at the current time. There is a sense that as our church faces this new season, and with the world, UK and UK church facing immense challenges, we need more and more to be on our faces before God. Consider joining us if you can.

We also intercede for the ministries at St Giles and, where we have permission, for those who are sick or bereaved amongst us. Please therefore send through requests and also details of answers to prayer. We love thanking God for these as well as praising Him for who He is.

Rachel White

# Men @ St Giles

We've hosted a variety of events for the Men of St Giles in 2024 and have seen some new faces

attending, both young and old. Events have included a walk and pub lunch, a curry night, a movie night, a summer BBQ and the popular Men's breakfasts, one of which featured a brilliant talk by Paul Cooper about science and faith. It's been great to see Men connecting in friendship and fellowship together.

The Men also celebrated victory over the Women in the annual Men's vs Women games' night in April. A fun (and very competitive) night for all involved.



Looking ahead to 2025 I'm hoping to continue hosting a variety of Men's events and hope we will connect with Men that might not normally attend church but can feel comfortable attending one of our meetings. Look out for events in the notice sheet and on Facebook.

Pete Day

#### Mission on our Doorstep

Mission on Our Doorstep aims to keep local mission needs in the congregation's minds, as well as supporting (by prayer and financial gifts) a number of national organisations which we have contact with as a church and who supply us with support and resources. This year we have stopped supporting Christians in Sport and now support The Lighthouse Trust, a local charity working in schools.

We provide a collection point in church for the University Foodbank and Baby Basics (supplies for new babies and their mums). We have also had a Harvest collection for the Foodbank and collections for Eve (toys and toiletries) at Mothering Sunday and Christmas, which have been much appreciated. We continue to explore practical ways of supporting the local organisations we have contact with.

We hope to encourage more practical service to local organisations that we have links with.

Carol Halliday

#### Music and Worship

Praising the Lord in song is just one way in which we can offer worship to God for all that He is, all that He has done for us and all that He means to us. I am so grateful to those who give of their time and talents to lead our worship week-in, week out. That's around 106 services a year!

If you enjoy singing or playing an instrument and are interested in joining those who enable our music led worship, please contact Stephen Hewitson for more information. You don't need music grades or years of experience, just a willingness to offer your best to our amazing God!

David Lidbetter

#### Pastoral Prayer

Over this last year we have continued to be available to pray for people during morning communion services and occasionally at other services as well. We have also prayed for a small number of people in the week who have needed an extended time of prayer. We have been very encouraged by people letting us know about answered prayer. The team is led by Denise Bridgens, assisted by Mike Kingman and Serena Yong, and we meet regularly to pray and plan. The team meet each month for worship and prayer as well as teaching.

Denise Bridgens

# PCC

The PCC met formally six times during 2024. Stephen Hewitson and David Lidbetter continued in their roles as churchwardens following the APCM in April.

Issues considered at this year's meetings included:

- Approval of a new Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Policy and a Constituting and Governing Statement.
- Renewal and expansion of the Students' and Young Adults' Mission Lead role, and recruitment of an intern.
- Response to Prayers of Love and Faith (PLF).
- Church finances with a focus on stability and sustainability.
- 2025 Budget.
- Support to Mission Partners

The PCC have also been working through CPAS 'PCC Tonight' materials, to reflect on the role of being an effective PCC, and hosted a church prayer evening in September ahead of the Church Giving Day.

The most recent PCC minutes are displayed on the notice board in church. We give thanks to God for all PCC members who give their time to PCC business.

Helen Hewitson

# Property Committee

Works have been confined to maintenance of the buildings with most of this being undertaken 'in-house'. Due to the financial challenges faced by the church, some of the less urgent items from the last Quinquennial Survey have been deferred and will be included within schedules of work arising from the next Quinquennial Survey to be undertaken in 2025.

The response to the gift day gives confidence that we will be able to undertake works that have been deferred and continue to maintain our buildings in good order.

Thanks go to Rob Brown, Janet Crane and Mike Holmes for all that they do to keep our buildings in good order.

Duncan Halliday

#### Safeguarding

Safeguarding remains at the heart of all we do to provide a safe place for all to worship and a warm welcome to all who come to St Giles.

Safeguarding is once again driving discussions and decisions within the Church of England, and we all share a responsibility to play our part in ensuring our church is a safe place for all. Following the publication of the Makin report there are a number of recommendations suggested for local churches. Ensuring risk assessments, safeguarding training and DBS checks are up to date for all in leadership and positions of responsibility for St Giles groups is a requirement and making sure this is up to date is vital.

Ensuring individuals we support financially also maintain the highest standards of safeguarding and are able to demonstrate their commitment to this is also vital to our safeguarding responsibility as a church.

We continue to respond to safeguarding concerns in line with our Safeguarding policy. We have responded to a small number of concerns requiring referral to external agencies and are continuing to working with these agencies as required.

PCC receive safeguarding updates at each meeting and our Safeguarding policy is reviewed annually and updated in line with diocesan and national recommendations.

Louise Whaites

## Schools

In June I was able to support Lighthouse Trust in running transition workshops and prayer spaces for year six children in a number of primary schools. We ran transition workshops in one school independently, and plan to offer this to more schools this year.

I have been doing regular assemblies in Abington Vale and All Saints this year. We have also been contacted by a number of other schools in the last year to arrange a visit to the church. We welcomed three different schools into our building, and we have had contact with over 600 children through our work in schools.

Our Partnership with Lighthouse Trust has continued through this year. We have a number of plans to develop our work in schools in 2025. These plans include improved transitions workshops for year 6, working to develop our Christmas and Easter provision, and continued school visits, lessons and assemblies. If you would like to be involved in this exciting ministry please talk to Beth.

Beth Whaites

# Seniors Ministry

#### Thursday Communion Service and Lunch Club



There is a regular congregation of around 24 on a Thursday morning. New people have started coming this year, which is always good to see. Although this is, on paper, a 'traditional' style service, there is a friendliness and informality, and a real sense of fellowship and community. Revds. Peter Allen, Nicola Aylett, James Howson and Josh Thorne have led, with Liz Kitwood and Daniel Blight contributing as occasional preachers, and Penny Ballard and Rob Brown supporting with music. August gatherings were once again "Tea & Toast and Testimony" weeks. These were good times of fellowship, and gave opportunity for various members of the congregation to share their testimonies, which were greatly appreciated. Many thanks to Serena Yong for organising.

Lunch Club has continued, once a month, and is very much enjoyed by all who come. We are very thankful to Val and Mike Holmes and Helen Hayward for making this possible.

#### Ministry to Care Homes:

Monthly services have continued at Spencer House and Cliftonville Care homes this past year, alternating between 'Songs of Praise' and Communion Services. Highlights included the Christmas Carol services, with over 20 attending in each home.

In January 2025, Nicola was asked to take the funeral of one lady from Cliftonville Care, at St Giles Church – perhaps one indicator of the growing link over the past few years.

At Christmas we also led two services at The Venton Centre, resulting in a re-start to regular services there. Peter and Sheila Angus are leading the Venton Centre team, and we are praying for new people to join this ministry.

We are very grateful for Ted Harding's faithful service in playing the piano for all these services. We would love to find at least one more pianist who could share the load with him.

Nicola Aylett

#### Senior Fellowship:

Senior Fellowship continued to meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month at 2.30pm in the Church Centre throughout the year. We had visiting speakers on a wide range of subjects, quizzes from time to time and we enjoyed sharing tea and cake each week. Around 15 people attended regularly. Michael and Doreen Mabbutt have led this ministry faithfully for over 20 years and have decided to step down from leading as of April 2025 which will bring this ministry to a close. I would like to thank them for their generous and committed service over these many years and wish them every joy as they continue to serve the Lord in other ways.

Josh Thorne

# St Columba, Collingtree

#### Collingtree C of E Primary School

A new head of school Mrs N Stutters was appointed in September 2023 and a better relationship between school and church is developing. Two members of our church go into the school to help with reading. I have been appointed as a school governor and the school regularly come to church to celebrate Christian festivals. I also visit the school to lead collective worship. As we have a number of families in need, a link has been formed with Weston Favell Food Bank to deliver supplies to the school for their Larder. Our harvest gifts also went to the school last year.



#### Collingtree Park Care Home

I visit the care home twice a month to conduct worship and minister to those in need. This is a developing ministry and much appreciated by those involved.

#### Church

We have had the new AV System for a year now and this has truly enhanced our worship. My thanks to Paul Cooper for all his work on this. Our organ is played from time to time and it is good to have live music; we have no worship band at present.

In September/October we ran the Hope Explored course. We had 11 participants including 4 that we don't see regularly in church. This has opened up discussion about the faith and we will be following this up with Christianity Explored in 2025.

The friends of St Columba continue to organise a monthly coffee morning in the church and this attracts 30-40 people. It is a good point of contact with the local community. I am also developing contacts with the parish council who are very supportive of the church and its role in the community.

Progress on the building project is slow and we are currently awaiting an archaeological dig. We are looking to add a meeting room and toilet to the church. There is also quinquennial work to be done.

I am grateful for the assistance of Simon Bridgens and Marian Thomas who continue to help with services when they are able to do so. We continue to see new faces join us and visit from time to time. Sadly a number of members have died in the last 2 years.

We are grateful for the support we receive from the Rev'd Josh Thorne and St Giles Church and we look forward to the future with optimism

James Howson

#### Student and Young Adults Ministry



At St Giles over 2024, we connected with about 70 students and young adults, with some people coming in and some graduating and leaving. We also connect with students at the university weekly, either while we hand out free tea and coffee, or at the multi-faith centre. We are connected with the university to help provide food through their food bank. We also have connected with 29 churches and ministries in the Northampton. We continue to invite churches and individuals to join our time of prayer monthly at the University.

Over this last year we have seen our over 30s create

their own homegroup, which has been a great space for them to continue to grow and develop in their faith. It is run by them, and Ruth is available for pastoral care. At the Young Adults homegroup, we have a monthly rotation of weekly topics that are missions, worship, teaching and guest speaker. It has been great to have some people from the congregation come and share with us, plus we have been able to connect with the St Johns Ambulance, Weston Favell food bank and the shoebox appeal, plus members of clergy from all over the diocese. We continue to see many Young Adults now lead and preach at the evening services over this last year. We also have the lovely Dan interning with us!

Ruth Alexander

#### Treasurer

Income for 2024 has exceeded our budget forecast thanks to the amazing response to the Gift

Day in September, which resulted in gifts to the value of over £90,000. We are extremely grateful for the generous response of you, the St Giles family. Much of the gifts came as 'one-off donations' and we still need to see an increase in the regular monthly giving to provide long term financial stability.

The gift day response has enabled us to pay our Parish Share in full for 2024, whist still showing a surplus of income over expenditure, and has provided the basis to plan for the future, maintaining the current ministry areas.



We continue to apply for grants to support ministry opportunities and our thanks go to those who undertake the time-consuming task associated with grant applications. St Giles is blessed with many generous donors, however we still face challenges going forward to match regular giving and income necessary to meet expenditure associated with maintaining the ministries of St Giles.

We are thankful to God for His continued faithfulness in meeting the needs of this church.

The audited accounts will be available to view on the St Giles website as soon as the audit is complete.

Duncan Halliday

# Uniformed Organisations – Scouts

This year we have said farewell to Jacqui Hunter who has been our treasurer for many years. We would like to express our sincere thanks to Jacqui for her stewardship, skill, and time, which have left our Scout group in a healthy financial position.

We are also grateful for previous Scout trustees and helpers who gave their time in supporting the group and have now stepped down. These are:- Sine Cookman, James Earp, Kay Rushmore and Claire Biddiscombe.

We welcomed Craig Macpherson as our New Treasurer and Richard Poole as the new Chairperson of the Scout group at St Giles.

Thanks also go to the current trustees including Mark Cookman, Caitlin Newbery, Josh Richards, and the new treasurer and chair as previously mentioned.

We continue to wait on God's timing as we look to restart a group in the future. It remains a great way to bring families into the Church to hear the word of God.

As we continue to plan and rethink the future of the group, we would welcome ideas, suggestions, and of course, willing volunteers to commit to run a group on a weekly basis. Please do make contact with Richard Poole on 07920361818 or <u>rsjspo@gmail.com</u> for a chat – it will probably involve a coffee.

Richard Poole

# Uniformed Organisations – 19<sup>th</sup> Northampton St Giles Guiding

We started the year with the wonderful news that 'Robin' - Joanna Poole, has achieved her Queens Guide Award. Jo had been working on this for 3 years and it is the highest award a leader can work on and achieve.

Our year in all sections was a year of celebrations from New Year, Saints Days, Christian festivals and anything in between.

In July all sections went to camp, where we invited 1 brownie unit and 2 guide units to join us in the fun! Brown Owl/Jay – Helen Hayward, gained her camp licence.

In October the Brownies joined another unit for a weekend holiday.

In November Guides and Rangers went with leaders to Pax Lodge in London for a night at a World Centre. After a visit to the theatre to see Six, we headed home, a very tiring but fun time was had by all.

We offer girls from 4 years to 18 years the chance to learn and have fun in a safe friendly environment.

Helen Hayward

#### Welcome and Hospitality

It's been wonderful to see some new faces at St. Giles last year and see them getting more connected into the church family.

We made some changes to the way we welcome people into the church including the introduction of new lanyards for the welcome team with a QR code taking people to the church website; we've also introduced a dedicated welcome area at the back of church where newcomers can come and be greeted by some friendly faces and given one of our welcome bags.



Thanks to everyone that serves on the welcome team regularly, personally it's a real joy to meet new people each week. As a church we all have a part to play in this ministry, look out for people carrying our welcome bags and be sure to say hello to them!

Pete Day and Alle Dekenah

# Wellbeing Café



The Wellbeing Café is an integral part of the weekly calendar of the church. We seek to offer hospitality, a sense of belonging and acceptance to everyone who comes into the space. We run on Monday afternoons between 1 and 4pm where we open up the church centre (the church building during the summer) to create a welcoming safe space.

Those who come spend time either doing an activity together, talking or sitting quietly alongside the group. It is open to anyone, but particularly created for those amongst us who are experiencing emotional challenges, mental health issues or spiritual struggles. We offer drinks and

snacks for those who come and, although the atmosphere is quiet and contemplative, it is also friendly and warm.

Every hour an optional contemplative prayer and meditation session is run by one of the leaders or guests.

# Women @ St Giles

Fun and Games! We had another evening of extremely competitive silliness of fun, bring & share food and fellowship at the men vs women games. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening for all, which this year alas was won by the men's team.

In June, we hosted the women's retreat day with Kintsugi as the theme. It was a special time where our speakers shared some powerful testimonies of God's unfailing love for them, with a time of reflection and prayers after each session.

Our Wednesday morning 'support group' with 'tea & toast / knit & natter' is going strong, but not necessarily at the same time!

The Women's Ministry didn't run a 221 course (Divorce support group) at St Giles in 2024, but instead were encouraged to reach out to other churches requesting courses in the Northamptonshire area (St Francis' Church Duston in July and in September at St Albans Church Broadmead).

Vikki Beale/Serena Yong

## World Mission

Our Mission Partners have all completed a further year in their ministries, and have kept regularly in touch, apart from Vera due to current circumstances.

We have welcomed Alf and Hilary and Peter and Gill to preach at both services, and take part in a shared lunch. Izaias and Ruth, home for several months, also shared in our church life as has Ann, home for an extended period until June.

We continued to support both a Tearfund project in Uganda,

but have received little feedback recently on progress, and persecuted Christians through Open Doors.

No Lent project was run.

A reduced budget enabled us to maintain our existing commitments, but had no reserve for discretionary expenditure. WMG welcomed new members Dave and Jo Smith and Renee Dixon and met periodically for prayer and planning.

Mission Partners have been regularly included in the monthly prayer diary and in our prayer gatherings and some articles have been published in Mission In Touch.

Liz Kitwood



#### Youth Work

Our Youth Work, in 2024, has mainly been in our Sunday morning groups.

Our Sunday morning youth provision continues for all young people in secondary school and is led by a wonderful team of youth workers. Each week we have breakfast together, and spend time exploring the Bible and what God's word means for us.

We would love to be able to grow our youth work with socials and trips, and to restart our mid-week groups, but will need more leaders in order to make this happen.

Beth Whaites

With grateful thanks to everyone who has contributed to this report!

If you would like to know more about any of the ministries here at St Giles, please contact the church office:

T: 01604 628623

E: <u>enquiries@stgilesnorthampton.org.uk</u>

Or for more information on St Giles church generally, please take a look at our website:

www.stgilesnorthampton.org.uk

